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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General report at the seventieth session on the implementation of resolution 65/119 on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Secretary-General points out that attention should be focused on accomplishing concrete results with the involvement of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The eradication of colonialism, in keeping with the principles of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a common endeavour that requires the constructive engagement of all concerned.

The General Assembly has repeatedly called for speeding up the process of decolonization. The midpoint of the Third Decade provides a framework for taking stock of where we stand and what needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the plan of action.

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I. Introduction

1. On 10 December 2010, at the conclusion of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/119, entitled "Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which, inter alia, declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second Decade (A/56/61, annex). The Assembly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization.

2. Pursuant to the provisions contained in resolution 65/119 and the plan of action, the Secretary-General submits the present report on action taken to implement the mentioned resolution.

3. The plan of action contains recommendations directed to the international community, the administering Powers, the specialized agencies, programmes and intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

II. Actions taken during the Decade by United Nations organs

A. General Assembly

4. During the period under review, the General Assembly has annually considered directly in plenary meetings or in the Fourth Committee a number of questions relating to decolonization and has adopted resolutions and decisions on them. The Assembly has considered the following items:

(a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Under this item, the Assembly considers the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration. The Committee monitors developments in all Non-Self-Governing Territories and reports on them to the Assembly, making recommendations on each Territory — American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, French Polynesia (since 2013), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara — as well as on the issue of the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(b) The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);[1]

[1] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316, this item remains on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

(c) Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(f) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

5. During the period under review, the General Assembly has continued to issue directives to the Special Committee regarding its mandate. In particular, the Assembly, by its resolutions 66/91, 67/134, 68/97 and 69/107, has called on the Special Committee and the administering Powers to cooperate in preparing plans for the decolonization of specific Territories and to promote the implementation of the plan of action for the eradication of colonialism. Most recently, by its resolution 69/107, the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. The Assembly requested the Special Committee in particular to, inter alia, formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism; to continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to recommend, as appropriate, to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories; and to continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization.

6. At its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly by it resolution 67/265, affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence, in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and recognized that French Polynesia remained a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter. It declared that an obligation existed under Article 73 e of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia.

7. At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 69/107, requested the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis.

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

8. As the policymaking organ of the General Assembly on decolonization, the Special Committee has been at the forefront of United Nations efforts to implement the plan of action for the Decade. Information on its activities may be found in the annual report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly. In 2014, the Special Committee Bureau was expanded with the addition of a third Vice-Chair (Indonesia).

9. As requested by the General Assembly, the Special Committee has carried out periodic reviews of the situation in each Territory, analysing progress made in the implementation of the Declaration. Such analysis has been based on information provided by the administering Powers pursuant to Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat, as well as information provided by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at hearings and regional seminars held by the Committee. On the basis of such analysis, the Special Committee has formulated recommendations to the General Assembly.

10. The Special Committee took decisions to continue to consider the question of Puerto Rico on the basis of reports prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee and heard petitioners on that subject. During the period under review, the Special Committee adopted annual resolutions on the question without a vote.

11. In accordance with the plan of action, the Special Committee has continued to hold annual regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately. The seminars have included the participation of the representatives of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, two specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts. Four regional seminars have been held to date: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2011), Ecuador (2012 and 2013) and Fiji (2014). Throughout the period under review, the regional seminars have served as an effective forum for discussion of issues of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and have afforded the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories opportunities to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The Special Committee includes its reports on the seminars to the General Assembly in its annual report on its work.

12. Pursuant to the plan of action, the Special Committee has continued to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories. In 2014, the Special Committee dispatched a visiting mission to New Caledonia with the cooperation and assistance of the administering Power, with the objective of gathering first-hand information on the implementation of the Noumea Accord. The mission held meetings with many relevant actors in the three provinces, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Overseas Territories in Paris. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/102, approved the report, observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission. Throughout that period, the Assembly reaffirmed that United Nations visiting missions are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate

with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories.

13. In compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions and the objectives of the Decade, the representative of New Zealand has continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee regarding Tokelau. The representative of France participated in the work of the Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia in 2014. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have not formally participated in meetings of the Committee in recent years. However, representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have attended some of the Committee's regional seminars.

14. Informal contacts have continued in order to explore means to improve cooperation between the Committee and the administering Powers and to develop work programmes for the decolonization of specific Territories. During the 2013 and 2014 intersessional periods, the Chair and Bureau held informal consultations with each of the four administering Powers in order to reinvigorate cooperation and partnership with them in addressing the self-determination status of the Territories under their administration. Informal consultations with the representatives of many Non-Self-Governing Territories and a number of other stakeholders concerned with the status of those Territories were also undertaken. A meeting, convened at the request of the Chair of the Special Committee, between the Bureau and the Secretary-General, was held on 12 November 2013. The meeting, the first of its kind held during the intersessional period, was aimed at enhancing the good offices of the Secretary-General in promoting dialogue among all concerned parties in the decolonization agenda. At its 6th meeting, on 24 June 2014, the Special Committee decided to hold intersessional meetings with the Secretary-General on an annual basis in order to sustain efforts to determine innovative approaches to the expeditious implementation of its mandate (see A/AC.109/2014/L.9). Subsequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/107, by which it requested the Secretary-General to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee (see para. 7).

B. Security Council

15. During the period under review, the Security Council continued to consider reports of the Secretary-General and adopted resolutions on the situation concerning Western Sahara. Most recently, on 29 April 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2152 (2014), extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2015.

C. Economic and Social Council

16. The Economic and Social Council has considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations annually and has adopted resolutions asking the specialized agencies to examine and review conditions in each Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of

the Territories. It also urged those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to the Territories to do so as soon as possible. The Economic and Social Council has considered annually reports of its President on the assistance provided by those organizations to Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Chairman of the Committee participates in the Council's consideration of the relevant item yearly.

D. Secretary-General

17. During the period under review, the Secretary-General has continued to exercise his good offices. As reported in detail previously (A/55/497, paras. 30-31), the Secretariat provides substantive, technical, administrative and information services to the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

18. Given the importance of disseminating information on decolonization to further the objectives of the plan of action, the Department of Public Information has continued to broadcast information on decolonization through all available media and to publicize the work of the United Nations in this field. In 2011, the Web Services Section of the Department launched a redesigned and updated site on the United Nations and decolonization in the six official languages. In 2013 the site had more than a quarter million (253,677) page views in all languages, an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year. In 2014, the Department continued to maintain and update the site, adding new content attracting a growing number of visitors (more than 280,000 page views in the period from April 2013 to March 2014). In 2011, a website dedicated to the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was created and launched in the six official languages. In 2012, the Department worked with the Department of Political Affairs to produce a visual identity for a poster, postcard and online products to mark the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. A detailed account of activities in this regard, including services to the media, United Nations television, visitors services and United Nations publications, is presented annually by the Department of Public Information to the Special Committee, which in turn reports to the General Assembly on this matter (see A/AC.109/2011/17; A/AC.109/2012/18; A/AC.109/2013/18; A/AC.109/2014/18).

III. Action taken during the Decade by the specialized agencies

19. The General Assembly and the Special Committee have considered on a yearly basis the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. A yearly report is issued on those activities by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the basis of replies received from those bodies. Recent information on their activities with regard to the Third Decade can be found in annex II to the present report.

IV. Support for the Decade by Member States

20. Sections I to IV of the plan of action for the Decade request specific action by Member States and particularly by the administering Powers to assist effectively the

peoples of the Territories in their progress towards self-determination. In addition to the 29 members of the Special Committee, a number of Member States have participated in the work of the Special Committee as administering Powers or observers and have attended its meetings and regional seminars.

21. During the period under review, 14 Member States have provided scholarships to students from the Territories (Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cuba, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Secretariat has made those offers public in annual reports.

22. The participation and cooperation of the administering Powers in the work of the Committee has been referred to in paragraphs 11 to 14 above. Specific replies from Member States on their activities to support the Decade are reproduced in the annex to the present report.

V. Conclusions

23. The task of eradicating colonialism remains an unfinished process and requires the sustained and determined efforts of all concerned. Midway through the Third Decade there are encouraging signs of rejuvenation of the work of the Special Committee: the Bureau has held several meetings with each of the four administering Powers and other relevant actors for the first time in a number of years with a view to identifying next steps in the decolonization process and a visiting mission was conducted to New Caledonia in 2014.

24. Building on the progress on dialogue and consensus-building experienced in the first half of the Third Decade, the Special Committee is expected to continue considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, and to the extent possible in conjunction with annual regional seminars, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization.

25. I reiterate my call to engage in a new, fully inclusive dialogue about decolonization. The eradication of colonialism, in keeping with the principles of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a common endeavour that requires the constructive engagement of all concerned — the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories — working on a case-by-case basis.

26. Attention should be focused on accomplishing concrete results with the involvement of all concerned: the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this context, the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/107, called upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

27. During the period under review, some specialized agencies and regional commissions have continued to facilitate the participation of many Non-Self-

Governing Territories in their bodies as observers or associate members, enabling them to become eligible also to participate in world conferences on economic and social issues, a development that has been welcomed in General Assembly resolutions on the subject. For example, in 2011 Tokelau became an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

28. I encourage all specialized agencies to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including through a more regular participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee. Furthermore, specialized agencies are also reminded that, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, they are requested to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of those resolutions.

29. Developments in some Territories offer the Committee and administering Powers a unique opportunity to develop decolonization plans on a case-by-case basis, with the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It is an opportunity that the parties concerned must seize in order to accelerate the decolonization process and ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the subject.

30. The Secretariat shall continue to assist the international community to make tangible progress in the decolonization agenda.

Annex I

Replies received from Member States

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[25 February 2015]

1. The Argentine Republic once again declares its full support for the decolonization process carried out by the United Nations through its relevant bodies, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Argentine Republic has a special interest in the successful, prompt and final conclusion of this process and is fully convinced that cooperation among all the States Members of the Organization, in particular the administering Powers, in fulfilment of their obligations under the Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions, will make it possible to achieve this goal.

2. The decolonization process remains one of the Organization's most important successes and the Argentine Republic has demonstrated its firm commitment to that endeavour by participating actively in the work of the General Assembly on decolonization through its Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and its Special Committee on decolonization. Argentina has been working in close cooperation with the Special Committee by participating in its successive sessions and in the regional seminars held alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific, in accordance with the current plan of action.

3. Halfway into the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 17 colonial situations remain, in spite of the commitment of the United Nations to bring about an end to this anachronistic scourge that remains a source of frustration for the overwhelming majority of the international community in the twenty-first century.

4. At the same time, the work of the Special Committee during the reporting period reveals promising trends that give rise to optimism. By working constructively to address the special political circumstances of each of the 17 existing colonial situations on a case-by-case basis, the Committee has performed its duties in a creative and innovative manner. For the first time since the Special Committee on decolonization was established in 1961 by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as temporary Chair of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to "explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis". Indeed, General Assembly resolution 69/107 provides for a mechanism that reflects the Special Committee's central role as the policymaking body on decolonization and establishes its level of relevance and the absolute validity of its mandate. At the same time, the Special Committee has made progress in its relationship with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and, in cases where sovereignty disputes exist, the representatives of States that are parties thereto. The Special Committee has continued to hold regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions without

interruption, dispatching a visiting mission to New Caledonia in strict accordance with the case-by-case approach and the Committee's own doctrine, in line with United Nations resolutions, including resolutions on specific Territories.

5. This new momentum in the decolonization agenda of the United Nations is extremely important for the Argentine Republic, given that the question of the Malvinas Islands is on that agenda because the illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is still ongoing. Each year, throughout this first half of the Third Decade, the Special Committee on decolonization adopted consensus resolutions that (a) describe the question of the Malvinas Islands as a "special and particular" colonial situation; (b) recognize the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom; (c) request the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the dispute, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the question; and (d) reiterate its support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions. As a sign of the importance that Argentina attaches to the work of the Special Committee on decolonization, the President of the Argentine Republic led the Argentine delegation to the meeting held on 14 June 2012, the first time in the history of the Committee that a Head of State participated in its deliberations. As was recognized by the region as a whole, this reaffirmed the will of the Argentine Government, expressed at the highest political level, to achieve a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute. The question was also considered at frequent meetings held by the Argentine Government with the authorities of the Bureau of the Special Committee and the United Nations Secretariat, including the meetings that took place on 28 January and 8 December 2014. The Chair of the Special Committee had invited Argentina to attend those meetings as a party to the sovereignty dispute under consideration by the Committee. The Secretary in charge of matters relating to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas at the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs had attended those meetings.

6. The question of the Malvinas Islands was also considered by other United Nations bodies during the reporting period. Besides being one of the issues that attracted the greatest attention during the meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly dedicated to the general debate on decolonization held in this first half of the Third International Decade, the question of the Malvinas Islands has repeatedly attracted the attention of the Secretary-General in fulfilment of the existing mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly and the powers assigned to him by the Charter of the United Nations, which include a mandate aimed at finding a solution to the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

7. Argentina has held repeated meetings, at the highest level, with the Secretary-General in that very context, regularly transmitting information to him and requesting that he make his best efforts in carrying out his mission. The leaders of all Latin American and Caribbean countries and of Spain and Portugal also recalled

the validity and importance of that mission in numerous multilateral statements. Indeed, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Ibero-American Summits, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) have reiterated the validity of the mission of good offices and, on occasion, have made ad hoc representations to the Secretary-General requesting him to renew his efforts to fulfil the mission and to keep the leaders of each bloc informed accordingly. During a meeting held in New York on 6 April 2011, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina delivered a note from the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR addressed to the Secretary-General (A/65/812). The General Secretariat of UNASUR again addressed the matter during the meeting held with the Secretary-General in New York on 2 April 2012, delivering a new declaration by the Heads of State and Government of UNASUR (A/66/815) which had been transmitted via a note verbale dated 26 March 2012 and in which the leaders renewed their request in that regard. In March 2012, the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General the request by the Heads of State and Government of CELAC that he should renew his efforts to fulfil this mission. On 26 March 2013, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Cuba and Uruguay and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru accompanied the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, as representatives of CELAC, MERCOSUR and UNASUR, respectively, to the meeting held with the Secretary-General as part of his mission of good offices, to call on him to make his best efforts in carrying out the mission and to express the strong support of the region for the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs also held a meeting with the Bureau of the Special Committee on decolonization at which they expressed the strong support of the region for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. More recently, in their joint communiqué adopted on 17 December 2014 following the forty-seventh ordinary meeting of the Council of the Common Market, the Presidents of the MERCOSUR States parties and associated States instructed the President Pro Tempore to reiterate the request to the Secretary-General to renew his efforts, in the light of the "serious concern" that they had expressed in their latest declaration over the fact that there has been no substantial progress in the negotiations in the 50 years that have passed since the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) by the General Assembly. The Presidents of the MERCOSUR States parties and associated States recalled that 2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), which was the first resolution to refer specifically to the question of the Malvinas Islands and which has been reiterated up to the present day by successive resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization, and noted with satisfaction the significant contribution made by the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization in its consideration of the question over the 50 years since the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) (A/69/775). Likewise, in their special declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands, adopted on 28 and 29 January 2015 on the occasion of the third Summit of CELAC, the Heads of State and Government of CELAC also recalled the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) in the same terms and, in that context, instructed the President Pro Tempore to request the Secretary-General of the United

Nations "to renew his efforts to carry out the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly through successive resolutions, with a view to achieving the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the above-mentioned dispute, and to inform them of the progress made in the fulfilment of that mission".

8. During this first half of the Third International Decade, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council have also received repeated communications from Argentina related to the question of the Malvinas Islands. They have also received Argentine Ministers for Foreign Affairs who have conveyed to them the concerns of the entire region surrounding the repeated unilateral activities of the United Kingdom in the area it illegally occupies in the South Atlantic, especially in relation to the growing militarization and exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. On 10 February 2012, the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs held meetings with the Secretary-General and the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council and made a presentation (A/66/696-S/2012/86) on the militarization of the South Atlantic by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In the presentation, the Argentine Government alerted the international community to the dispatch by the United Kingdom of a nuclear submarine with the capacity to transport nuclear weapons to the South Atlantic, to the British refusal to provide any information that would confirm or refute that fact, and to the breach of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to which the United Kingdom is a party, by introducing nuclear weapons into the South Atlantic.

9. In addition to the United Nations, many international bodies and regional and bi-regional forums have considered the question of the Malvinas Islands in this first half of the Third Decade, joining the call that the United Nations continues to make year after year and giving the question greater international weight. In the various multilateral bodies to which they belong, all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have supported the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. In addition to CELAC, MERCOSUR, UNASUR, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), the countries of Africa have also added their voices at the Africa-South America Summits. The Organization of American States (OAS), the Ibero-American Summits, the South American and Arab Countries Summits, the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, the Group of 77 (G-77) and China, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have called repeatedly for the resumption of bilateral negotiations. Several of these forums have urged the United Kingdom to comply with the mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 31/49, to cease its unilateral actions while the islands are going through the process recommended by the United Nations, and to refrain from modifying the situation by illegally exploring and exploiting renewable and non-renewable natural resources in the area under occupation. UNASUR, MERCOSUR and ALBA have decided, among other supportive measures, to close their ports to any vessel flying the illegal "flag" of the islands and to exchange information concerning any vessels or marine structures travelling to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands with cargo to be used for illegal hydrocarbon and/or mining activities on the Argentine continental shelf and thus prevent the consolidation of these activities. More recently, the Latin

American Energy Organization, G-77 and China, and MERCOSUR have made statements recognizing the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal action against unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Repeated statements have also been made in the region condemning the growing military presence of the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic. MERCOSUR, UNASUR, the Rio Group, the South American and Arab Countries Summit, and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic have also made statements in that regard following the Argentine complaint to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

10. Nevertheless, despite the strong mandate of the international community, reiterated in these numerous calls, and the permanent willingness of Argentina, the United Kingdom remains reluctant to resume the bilateral negotiations, repeatedly perpetrates unilateral acts contrary to international law, and claims the right of the British population transplanted to the islands to exercise self-determination.

11. Argentina recognizes the principle of self-determination, under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), in relation to all peoples subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation. As that characterization does not apply to the question of the Malvinas Islands, this question has been described expressly as a "special and particular" case of decolonization involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom that must be resolved in a peaceful and negotiated manner, taking due account of the interests of the inhabitants of the islands.

12. In contrast, the United Kingdom has a questionable and contradictory voting record in the General Assembly on questions of colonialism and self-determination. As the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs pointed out before the Special Committee on decolonization at its meeting of 20 June 2013, with regard to the 15 territories currently on the Committee's agenda, excluding Gibraltar and the Malvinas Islands, the United Kingdom did not support 88 per cent of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Argentina, on the other hand, supported 81 per cent of those resolutions. As regards the eight cases in which the United Kingdom is the colonial Power — again excluding Gibraltar and the Malvinas Islands — the United Kingdom failed to support 90 per cent of the relevant resolutions, whereas Argentina supported 80 per cent. Lastly, the United Kingdom has never supported a resolution adopted by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Special Committee regarding former British colonial territories that are now independent countries and members of the Committee. Argentina has never voted against such a resolution. As regards the transplanted nature of the islands' inhabitants, the Argentine Government can only reaffirm that the inhabitants are British subjects who have stayed on the islands under the protection of a strict migratory policy that has, in general, discriminated systematically against mainland Argentines.

13. This is why the unlawful vote that was unilaterally held in March 2013 by the United Kingdom, which it alone defines as a "referendum", was aimed at the inhabitants which that country implanted in the Malvinas Islands. The vote was intended to ask the inhabitants about questions that gloss over the true legal status of the islands. It is surprising that the United Kingdom should boast about the results of a so-called "referendum" whose predictable outcome, while it confirms

that the subjects in question are British, does not modify the colonial nature of the issue and cannot bring an end to the dispute. This was effectively a unilateral British act and therefore a violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49. Attempting to place the solution to the dispute in the hands of a group of subjects of the occupying Power, which is one of the two parties to the dispute, distorts the letter and spirit of the principle of self-determination of peoples. Clearly the vote was not attended by "international observers", whom British diplomats sought out in vain, but rather by a handful of individuals acting in their personal capacity, because of the United Nations resolutions, particularly resolution 31/49. Nor was the illegitimate vote recognized in any way by the United Nations or other organizations; indeed, it was rejected by numerous and varied countries and regional forums, including MERCOSUR, UNASUR and ALBA.

14. Decolonization and self-determination are not synonymous. Self-determination is one of the mechanisms for implementing decolonization, but it is not the only one, as resolution 1514 (XV) itself contains, in paragraph 6, another principle: that of preserving a country's national unity and territorial integrity. It is this principle that takes precedence in the question of the Malvinas Islands, because it is the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic which is disrupted. That is how the situation was understood in the ten resolutions of the General Assembly (2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25) and in all the resolutions adopted so far by the Special Committee on decolonization, which describe the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation. That description reflects the specific circumstances of the question, namely that the United Kingdom usurped the islands by force in 1833, expelled the Argentine population and authorities who had been living there publicly and peacefully, prevented their return and replaced them with its own population. To remove any doubt on the issue, in 1985, the General Assembly expressly rejected, by a clear majority, two British attempts to introduce the principle of self-determination into the draft resolution on the question of the Malvinas Islands. Owing to the specific nature of the case, none of the General Assembly resolutions on the question accepts, states or assumes that such a principle can apply. These are the same resolutions invoked by other organizations, such as the Organization of American States in its regional declarations, and other regional and biregional forums mentioned above. It is worth stating clearly once again that Argentina has nothing against the British inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. The commitment to defend their interests and way of life at the highest institutional level is enshrined in the Constitution of the Argentine Republic. Argentina has demonstrated this commitment in various ways, including through the guarantees it offered for 17 years beginning in 1966 when the two countries were negotiating on sovereignty. Nonetheless, the fact that the interests of the British inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands are respected cannot entitle them to any claim of a right to self-determination. This is not just the opinion of Argentina but the opinion of the international community, as expressed in particular in resolutions of the General Assembly and its Decolonization Committee.

15. For this reason, instead of now distorting and falsifying historical events which it has acknowledged and whose consequences it also understands, the United Kingdom should respect the call of the General Assembly and the international community in its various forums for a solution to the sovereignty dispute and immediately resume negotiations with Argentina on sovereignty over the Malvinas

Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in order to find a just and definitive solution to the dispute. Since the United Kingdom was able to do so beginning in 1966, following the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX), and for almost two decades negotiated bilaterally with Argentina on various formulas to resolve the sovereignty dispute, even with the de facto Governments of the dictatorships to which Argentina was subjected, the hope is that it will comply with the obligation imposed by the international community and international law and resume negotiations on sovereignty with a democratic, pluralistic Argentina committed to multilateralism, international law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes. In so doing, the United Kingdom would be acting with the same lawfulness and responsibility that it demands of the rest of the international community from its privileged position in the United Nations.

16. Argentina reiterates its full willingness to resume negotiations on sovereignty as established by the international community. It also reiterates its equally full willingness to cooperate with the United Kingdom on practical issues deriving from the de facto situation in the South Atlantic, with due juridical protection and with the purpose of creating a framework that would allow both parties to resume the negotiations called for by the international community. However, Argentina must once again express its concern at the persistence of the United Kingdom in conducting unilateral activities in the disputed area, in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49, as it was those same unilateral acts by the United Kingdom which prevented the continuation of bilateral cooperation on the relevant issues, as reported at the time by the Government of Argentina to the United Nations (see, inter alia, A/60/593 and A/61/827). Besides seriously harming the economic capacity of the Argentine Republic, as recognized by the Group of 77 and China, this unilateral and illegal activity has been firmly protested by Argentina and rejected by the numerous international forums described above. Argentina will not permit the plundering of the natural resources of the Argentine sea. Such arbitrary exploitation, without consultation, is contrary to international law, as it contravenes General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation. To illustrate the magnitude of the harm suffered by Argentina, it must be recalled that each year, the United Kingdom steals fishing resources valued at more than $600 million and also collects more than $34 million for various types of licences illegitimately granted to fishing enterprises for terms of up to 25 years. As for hydrocarbons, any prospecting for and exploitation of hydrocarbons on the Argentine continental shelf not authorized by the Argentine State is illegal and subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, and is cause for concern for the Argentine Government, owing to the potential contamination of the marine environment that could result from the illegitimate hydrocarbon operations in areas surrounding the islands.

17. The year 2015 is doubly emblematic. Midway through the Third International Decade, some progress and challenges have been recorded, as mentioned above. The international community must rise to the occasion and continue to give the Special Committee on decolonization the tools and mandates necessary to bring an end to this scourge that is inconceivable in the twenty-first century. One such challenge is the question of the Malvinas Islands. It was precisely 50 years ago that the General Assembly adopted the famous resolution 2065 (XX), which established the method

that the two parties must adopt to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. That resolution was followed by nine others reproducing the same mandate, and by other resolutions adopted so far by the Special Committee on decolonization. Argentina is genuinely committed to advancing the method set forth by the General Assembly and, therefore, the international community, for the two parties in the sovereignty dispute to find a solution: to continue engaging in a dialogue under the same conditions that existed in 1965, when the General Assembly, reflecting Argentine arguments, acknowledged in its resolution 2065 (XX) the existence of the sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina and established that the dispute was to be resolved through bilateral negotiations. This year, Argentina is joining the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean to evoke, commemorate and celebrate that fifty-year-old instrument, which remains undoubtedly valid. It does so out of its unlimited respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes and multilateralism.

18. The people and Government of Argentina attach great importance and priority to their ability to [sic] again exercise effective sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, while respecting the way of life of their inhabitants and abiding by the principles of international law, a State policy enshrined in the Constitution of Argentina as a permanent and irrevocable goal. The Argentine Republic trusts that the work of the Special Committee on decolonization will help to ensure compliance with all the resolutions adopted by that body in relation to the question of the Malvinas Islands. It also trusts that the United Kingdom will respond to the calls resulting from the Secretary-General's good offices mandate and will assume the responsibility that is doubly incumbent on it as a permanent member of the Security Council, by accepting its obligation to peacefully resolve this dispute in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands. As the first half of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is ending and the fiftieth anniversary of resolution 2065 (XX) is being commemorated, it is worth remembering that for the United Nations, the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is a crime which constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the principles of international law, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2621 (XXV). Fifty years later, crimes of colonialism persist and it is our obligation to put an end to them; the international community and the Secretary-General can count on the complete willingness and efforts of the Argentine Republic to contribute to their final eradication.

Australia

[Original: English]
[26 February 2015]

1. We note that the relevant paragraphs of the plan of action that request action from Member States (other than administering Power Member States) are paragraphs 16 to 18. We are pleased to note the following actions taken by Australia pursuant to these paragraphs.

2. Australia supports Pacific regional organizations, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (AUD 4.05 million, 2014-15), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (AUD 17 million in core and AUD 3.2 million in fisheries programme funding, 2014-15) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (over AUD 5 million, 2014-15) to support sustainable development, environmental management, disaster risk reduction and the effective management of fisheries and marine resources. Tokelau is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau are members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme. Of note, in March 2015, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community hosted a workshop on the future of inshore fisheries in New Caledonia, with funding from Australia. Australia also supports a wide range of international and regional environmental partnerships through our support of the Global Environment Fund and the United Nations agencies and research networks.

3. In 2010, Australia and France-New Caledonia signed a Declaration of Intention in relation to bilateral collaboration on Coral Sea conservation. As part of this collaboration, Australia hosted a Coral Sea workshop in Brisbane in March 2013, which brought together researchers from relevant countries to facilitate enhanced understanding of transboundary issues of interest to collaborative management of the Coral Sea. Australia remains interested in continuing to exchange information on marine conservation management under the Declaration of Intention and on keeping track of the progress of the marine planning process of New Caledonia.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[26 February 2015]

General position on colonialism

1. Mexico believes that the United Nations plays a vital role in outstanding decolonization processes, particularly in the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020).

2. Mexico supports the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, as set out in its foreign policy principles.

Question of the Malvinas Islands

3. Mexico recognizes the rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas.

4. Mexico has insisted that the dialogue between the two countries should remain open and has reiterated its interest in Argentina and the United Kingdom resuming negotiations with a view to reaching a just, peaceful and final solution that is mutually acceptable to the parties, within an institutional framework and in a spirit of mutual respect, in accordance with international law.

5. Mexico supports the resolutions and declarations that the General Assembly, the Organization of American States, the Ibero-American Summit and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and other regional and international forums have adopted on the topic.

6. Mexico encourages the parties to avail themselves of the offers of good offices of the Secretary-General and of mediation of the President of the General Assembly.

7. On various occasions, Mexico has urged the United Kingdom and Argentina to avoid unilateral actions and decisions that contravene resolutions on the topic and that imply the introduction of unilateral modifications which might affect their rights in the dispute while it remains unresolved.

8. In regard to the Argentine initiative to seek clarification on the alleged violation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco by the United Kingdom through the control system of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean — which has never previously been used — Mexico continues to hope that the question of the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands would be resolved peacefully, that the principles contained in the Treaty of Tlatelolco would be preserved, and that the region would remain completely free of nuclear weapons.

Question of Western Sahara

9. Mexico supports the efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, that provides for the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people to be expressed through a referendum on their future that is considered legitimate by and acceptable to the parties involved.

10. Mexico supports the efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy Christopher Ross and calls on the parties involved to continue cooperating with him.

11. Concerning the process of negotiations, Mexico states once again that it is important for the parties to show the political will necessary to make concrete progress during the rounds of informal talks and to engage in good-faith negotiations without preconditions, with a view to reaching a lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that will lead to the self-determination of the Sahrawi people.

12. Mexico supports the mandate and work of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), emphasizing the vital importance of taking the will of the Sahrawi people into consideration. Mexico has also insisted that MINURSO should have a human rights monitoring mandate.

Question of French Polynesia

13. On 17 May 2013, during the debate in the General Assembly, Mexico joined the consensus in adopting resolution 67/265 on the question of French Polynesia, although it expressed reservations on the manner in which the resolution was adopted. It would have preferred the request made by the new authorities of the Territory for a postponement of consideration of the draft resolution to have been approved, with a view to establishing an official dialogue with the sponsors of the resolution and with the General Assembly itself.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[27 February 2015]

1. Decolonization is one of the priorities of the United Nations and one of the areas in which the Organization has made the most progress since its inception. Owing to that patient and dedicated effort, the end of colonialism is now one step closer. Nevertheless, colonial situations remain (the territorial integrity of Spain is affected by colonialism in the case of the British Non-Self-Governing Territory of Gibraltar). These situations remind us that we must not waver in our commitment to eradicate this twenty-first century historical anachronism, especially now that we are midway through the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020) and its plan of action, which Spain fully supports. The ultimate goal should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, all the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, and the principles set out in the Declaration itself (resolution 1514 (XV)).

2. The resolutions and decisions on decolonization which the General Assembly adopts every year, either by consensus or with the support of a large majority of Member States, attest to the international community's consensus on the need to eliminate the scourge of colonialism.

3. Spain has been collaborating with the United Nations to bring an end to colonialism and to implement the measures stipulated for the Third International Decade and its plan of action since its adoption. Spain participates constructively and actively in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee), at meetings of the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) of the General Assembly, and in the regional seminars on decolonization that have been held alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

4. Spain has supported the work of the Special Committee since its establishment in 1961. The Special Committee has a major role to play in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV), and the measures stipulated for in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020). It has played a key part in the success achieved towards eradicating colonialism. The Committee has helped to develop the doctrinal basis of the decolonization process through its consideration of the situations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It has used a case-by-case approach in that regard, distinguishing between scenarios in which the principle of self-determination takes precedence and those in which the principle of territorial integrity takes precedence, and recognizing that there are specific colonial situations that are the result of sovereignty disputes.

5. The Special Committee has been able to use the support provided by the United Nations Secretariat, which, for instance, prepares annual reports on the Non-Self-Governing Territories through its Decolonization Unit. The reports, to which Spain contributes diligently, serve as the basis for Committee discussions.

6. The Special Committee also uses visiting missions to learn firsthand about the real situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Spain supports these missions, as it does the Committee's practice of requiring the prior approval of the sovereign States that are party to sovereignty disputes before visiting Territories involved in such disputes. This condition is fully consistent with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX).

7. Held in a more informal environment with the active participation of the various stakeholders involved in the decolonization process, the regional seminars have helped to advance the objectives of the Third International Decade. Spain is proud to have participated constructively in these seminars, including in the most recent one, held in May 2014, in Denarau, Fiji.

8. The Special Committee has been able to adopt innovative approaches to revitalize its work, including holding informal consultations with the administering Powers and other States and actors. Since the launch of these consultations in 2013, Spain has already participated in two meetings with the Bureau of the Special Committee, where methods of strengthening cooperation in order to resolve the question of Gibraltar and fulfil the mandate of the United Nations were discussed.

9. The work of the Special Committee has been acknowledged in General Assembly resolution 69/107. In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the Assembly "requests the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis". In so doing, the General Assembly seeks to give decolonization work a major boost, one that Spain can only welcome.

10. Through the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly has a significant role to play in the decolonization process, codifying the doctrine, driving the process and endorsing the work of the Special Committee. Spain also participates actively in relevant General Assembly meetings, supporting resolutions and decisions proposed by the Fourth Committee.

11. Spain wishes to express its appreciation to the General Assembly, its Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the Special Committee for following up on the question of Gibraltar, an anachronistic situation at this juncture, with the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020) well under way, and one that directly affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Spain. Spain also welcomes the repeated calls for a negotiated solution between itself and the United Kingdom that takes into account the interests of the inhabitants of both Gibraltar and Campo de Gibraltar.

12. As the Special Committee has noted on several occasions, the decolonization process should proceed on a "case-by-case" basis. Gibraltar has specific features that are not present in other Territories awaiting decolonization. In that regard, Spain wishes to recall that Gibraltar was occupied by Great Britain on behalf of a third party. It was artificially populated with numerous waves of people brought from elsewhere and, as if that was not enough, it was later expanded with territory illegally seized from Spain. The occupation occurred in 1704, on behalf of Archduke Charles of Austria, pretender to the Spanish throne, in the context of the War of the Spanish Succession. The settlement of the colony, planned by the

occupier, took place well after the conquest; the Spaniards who inhabited Gibraltar until 1704, the real Gibraltarians, were forced to leave the place and settled in neighbouring San Roque, where the local council hall has since been known as the "Town Hall of the City of Gibraltar in San Roque". The resulting divide in the region persists to this day. Moreover, the United Kingdom illegally seized other territories that were not ceded under the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the War of the Spanish Succession. In the nineteenth century, Spain allowed the United Kingdom — for humanitarian reasons — to set up temporary camps to prevent contagion from the population of the Rock, which had been stricken by an epidemic of yellow fever. The epidemic ended, but the British, far from appreciating the humanitarian gesture of Spain, did not withdraw. On the contrary, despite Spanish protests, those settlements on Spanish soil became permanent. In 1909 the United Kingdom built a fence, delimiting the area and thereby attempting to consolidate the illegal occupation of Spanish territory. The isthmus was therefore not ceded by Spain to the United Kingdom under the Treaty of Utrecht and remains under Spanish sovereignty. The fact that it has been continuously occupied by the British is not sufficient to meet the requirements of international law for the acquisition of sovereignty. Spain has always stated that the occupation of the isthmus is illegal and contrary to international law and, therefore, has consistently called for its unconditional return.

13. The United Nations has acknowledged the specificity of the process of decolonization for Gibraltar by noting that the colonial situation of Gibraltar undermines the territorial integrity of Spain. This was reflected in General Assembly resolution 2353 (XXII) of 19 December 1967. For four decades, the General Assembly itself has been urging the administering Power (United Kingdom) and Spain to resolve all their differences on this issue through bilateral negotiations. Year after year, a decision adopted by the General Assembly by consensus recalls this mandate of bilateral dialogue and specifies the framework in which the negotiated solution must be reached, namely, the Anglo-Spanish declaration adopted in Brussels on 27 November 1984 that gave rise to the so-called Brussels Process a few months later.

14. Accordingly, negotiations on sovereignty, as indicated by the United Nations itself, are the sole responsibility of the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom, taking into account the interests of the population of Gibraltar and that of Campo de Gibraltar (in respect of which Spain and the United Kingdom are currently negotiating the establishment of a new "ad hoc" mechanism for regional cooperation in which, unlike in the defunct Trilateral Forum, the local authorities of Gibraltar and the competent local and regional Spanish authorities will be able to participate alongside Spain and the United Kingdom).

15. For years, the Spanish Government has been urging the United Kingdom to resume without delay the above-mentioned bilateral negotiations — which have been interrupted for many years — with a view to bringing to an end the colonial situation of Gibraltar. Since 2006, the response of the United Kingdom has been that it will not initiate talks with Spain on sovereignty issues without the consent of the local Gibraltar authorities. The Spanish Government considers that this position contravenes the doctrine established in various General Assembly resolutions and

decisions.[2] It also violates the commitment made by the United Kingdom to Spain in 1984 and expressed explicitly in the Brussels Declaration of 1984.

16. Spain, one of the oldest sovereign States in Europe and on the planet, is thus enduring a colonial situation for which there can be no justification in the twenty-first century. The existence of a colony in Europe well into the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020) is a historical anachronism. For the historical and legal reasons described above, the United Nations has stated clearly that the principle that should govern the decolonization process for Gibraltar is not that of self-determination, but that of restoring the territorial integrity of Spain, which is undermined by the presence of a colony on its soil. In this regard, it is worth recalling that every year, in the conclusions of the regional seminars on decolonization, reference is made not only to the right to self-determination, but also to the principle of territorial integrity.

17. Spain would like the important work on decolonization that the United Nations and the Special Committee in particular have been doing for decades — which Spain has always appreciated and actively supported — to be taken into account and be treated with the respect that it clearly deserves. The only way to show that respect is to comply with General Assembly decisions urging the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom to reach a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles.

[2] General Assembly resolution 2070 (XX) invited the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom to begin without delay negotiations on the sovereignty of Gibraltar; General Assembly resolution 2353 (XXII) provides that any colonial situation which partially or completely destroys the national unity and territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and specifically with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on decolonization in general; General Assembly resolution 2429 (XXIII) requested the United Kingdom as administering Power to terminate the colonial situation in Gibraltar no later than 1 October 1969, stating that the continuation of the colonial situation in Gibraltar is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Annex II

Replies received from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

A. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to provide technical assistance in the areas of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities, as well as rural development in general.

2. Activities undertaken in the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism include: participation of Montserrat over the last 10 years in regional forestry workshops organized by the Caribbean Subgroup of the Latin-American and Caribbean Forestry Commission; and the involvement and participation in 2014 of United Kingdom Overseas Territories in important regional fisheries and aquaculture-related activities convened mainly by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. Tokelau is one of the participating countries under the subregional FAO Technical Cooperation Programme Project "Strategies and capacity-building in Pacific Small Islands Development States to address Climate Change impacts on Jurisdictional claims". FAO also continued to work closely to assist small island developing States following the conferences held in Barbados and Mauritius, as well as with preparations for the recent third International Conference for Small Island and Developing States held in Samoa in 2014.

B. World Health Organization

1. In order to bring World Health Organization (WHO) technical assistance closer to the Pacific countries and areas, WHO has established three WHO Representative Offices in the Pacific, namely, the WHO Representative Office in the South Pacific, located in Suva, Fiji; the WHO Representative Office for American Samoa, Cooks Island, Niue, Tokelau and Samoa, located in Apia, Samoa; and the WHO Representative Office for the Solomon Islands, located in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Furthermore, the Division of Pacific Technical Support of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific was established in Suva in 2010, in order to better coordinate WHO assistance and collaboration with other health partners and to respond to the specific needs of Pacific countries in a more timely manner.

2. The WHO Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy for the Pacific 2013-2017 has been developed through a consultative process with the Governments of the Pacific Island countries and areas, including Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific. The Strategy represents a medium-term vision for WHO technical cooperation in support of their national health policies, strategies and plans, while contributing to the WHO organization-wide plans.

3. As a result of the Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy, Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as American Samoa and Tokelau, with support of WHO, have developed their own country cooperation strategy, which offers a vision of healthy islands and provides a guide for WHO cooperation in addressing major health issues. The country cooperation strategy represents a medium-term vision for WHO

technical cooperation in support of their national health policies, strategies and plans, while contributing to the WHO organization-wide plans.

4. Through the Division of Pacific Technical Support and three WHO Representative Offices, WHO technical assistance reaches the territories in the Pacific. This includes regular contact with country counterparts focusing on support for countries' annual review and planning processes. Other areas of responsibility include ensuring that work is aligned with national plans; developing WHO support plans for countries based on national health plans; and coordinating technical support to assist countries.

5. For example, WHO has supported the Ministry of Health in French Polynesia to develop a national plan to combat non-communicable diseases, and they have also been included in the WHO Suicide Trends in At-Risk Territories (START) project. In New Caledonia, WHO works with the local government to develop a non-communicable diseases response plan, with a specific focus on tobacco control. In Guam, WHO has provided technical support to the development of a salt reduction action plan and conducted training on strategic health communication with particular focus on salt reduction. In Tokelau, WHO has provided technical and financial support to develop evidence of risk factors of non-communicable diseases through a stepwise survey.

6. Territories endemic for lymphatic filariasis, French Polynesia, American Samoa and New Caledonia, joined the WHO Pacific programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (PacELF). WHO and these territories are also leveraging the work to eliminate lymphatic filariasis to increase control of other neglected tropical diseases as well.

7. WHO is working with the Departments of Health in Guam and American Samoa to roll out the Pacific Open Learning Health Net in order to provide continuing professional development opportunity to health professionals through e-learning.

8. WHO, working with its partners, has also supported water safety planning for French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Drinking water safety planning is considered one of the most effective means of ensuring the safety of the drinking water supply from catchment to consumer. This work aimed to strengthen collaboration and learning between Pacific countries and territories in technical and sustainability areas of safe drinking-water supply.

C. Region of the Americas

1. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO works with its Member States and development partners within the framework of national health policies, strategies, and plans; the respective PAHO/WHO country cooperation strategies; the PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the WHO Twelfth General Programme of Work 2014-2019. The organization focuses not only on national health development priorities and related national capacity strengthening, but also on global, regional and subregional health commitments and goals, and on the cross-cutting themes of gender, human rights, equity and ethnicity.

2. The PAHO/WHO Office of Eastern Caribbean Countries, located in Barbados, leads WHO technical cooperation with the United Kingdom Overseas Territories of

Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, which includes a country programme specialist located in Anguilla to serve the three territories. The PAHO/WHO Office in Jamaica serves Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, and the PAHO/WHO Office in The Bahamas serves the Turks and Caicos Islands. Each of the country offices works with national counterparts and partners to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate a biennial work plan that addresses the territory's priority needs in health, among them universal access to health and universal health coverage, non-communicable disease prevention and control, core capacities for implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) and environmental health, including mitigating the health impact of climate change.

3. The PAHO/WHO Representatives in Barbados, Jamaica and the Bahamas are collaborating closely to support the United Kingdom Overseas Territories in a coherent and coordinated manner, in order to create efficiencies, foster a common understanding of issues relevant to them and enable a unified position in their responses to the United Kingdom and agencies such as PAHO/WHO.